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(54) Tide: NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES CODING FOR CRYPTOSPORIDIUM PROTEINS, POLYPEPTIDES CODED BY SAID SEQUENCES AND KITS FOR THE USE THEREOF

(57) Abstract

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Nucleic acids and polypeptides coded by said nucleic acids, derived from protozoan parasites of Cryptosporidium genus are described. Nucleic acids and peptides are advantageously used for developing detection assays of Cryptosporidium in biological samples of human and animal origin and/or in the environment.

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WO 94/04681 PCT/IT93/00089

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NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES CODING FOR CRYPTOSPORIDIUM PROTEINS,
POLYPEPTIDES CODED BY SAID SEQUENCES AND KITS FOR THE USE THEREOF

DESCRIPTION

The invention concerns nucleic acids and polypeptides coded by said nucleic acids, derived from protozoan parasites of Cryptosporidium genus. Nucleic acids and peptides are advantageously used for developing detection assays of Cryptosporidium in biological samples of human and animal origin and/or in the environment.

Cryptosporidium parasites infect the intestinal tract of several animal species. Over the last decade the number of infections in humans has dramatically increased. Most of the affected patients show a marked immunodeficiency, with a high incidence of AIDS. immunocompromised patients develop severe а and which irreversible diarrhoea causes frequently malnutrition and represents a major factor leading to death.

The prophylaxis of Cryptosporidium infections is hampered by the lack of reliable immunoassays for the detection of the parasite. Moreover, by microscopic difficult examination, parasite oocyst are discriminate from several microoganisms that are morphologically similar to Cryptosporidium, like Candida species.

The development of immunological and molecular diagnostic assays highly specific for Cryptosporidium absolutely requires the biochemical characterisation and localization of parasite antigens and the cloning of corresponding genes. The availability of diagnostic assays would permit to develop prophylactic measures for immunodeficient patients by detecting the parasites

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in the environment (food, water) and in individuals (relatives, nurses) that may act as carriers.

Moreover, no effective therapeutic compounds against *Cryptosporidium* infection are available; therefore there is the need to develop reagents able to prevent the onset of the infection in immunodeficient patients.

The authors of the present invention have obtained a rabbit antiserum raised against a whole lysate of Cryptosporidium cocysts. The serum has been used to screen a genomic library of Cryptosporidium from infected intestinal mucosal cells, into the expression vector \(\lambda\gammattle{11}\). Among clones isolated, clone cpRL3 has been shown to comprise a 2359 bp (SEQ ID No.1) insert with an open reading frame coding for a polypeptide of 786 amino acids (SEQ ID No.2). Scanning of the 67.0 version of the "GENE BANK" data base using the cpRL3 sequence failed to reveal any similarity with known DNA sequences.

The cpRL3 insert has been subcloned into an expression plasmid and the corresponding recombinant polypeptide is produced in E. coli, fused at stretch of six histidines. N-terminus to a The histidine sequence allows a fast and efficient purification by nickel chelate chromatography of the encoded by cpRL3. The recombinant polypeptide polypeptide is used as immunogen in Balb/c mice for producing antisera and monoclonal antibodies. The highly immunogenic. recombinant protein is sequence codes for a portion of a protein of the oocyst wall of Cryptosporidium that has an apparent molecular weight of 190,000 Dalton, named "Cryptosporidium Oocyst Wall Protein" (COWP).

Nucleotide and polypeptide sequences derived from the isolated sequence are advantageously utilized for diagnosis of Cryptosporidium infections in patients

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and/or animals and for analysis of environmental contamination by Cryptosporidium oocysts. Treatment of Cryptosporidium infection may be obtained by administration of antibodies raised against COWP.

The invention concerns also: - designing of specific oligonucleotides, as primers in polymerase chain reactions (PCR) reactions for the detection of the COWP DNA sequence; - the utilisation of COWP amino acid sequence or fragments thereof to raise antisera and/or monoclonal antibodies for the development of immunological assays to detect the presence of Cryptosporidium and/or COWP molecule; - the use of COWP derived polypeptides, either synthetic recombinant, as components of diagnostic kits for the detection of COWP released by parasites; utilisation of COWP-derived polypeptides, synthetic or recombinant, for producing antisera and/or monoclonal antibodies to be employed in the therapy of Cryptosporidiosis.

It is a specific object of the present invention a polypeptide in a substantially purified form comprising a contiguous sequence coded by a Cryptosporidium gene, said gene comprising a nucleotide sequence at least 50 % homologous to the sequence of SEQ ID No.1. Preferably said contiguous sequence comprises an antigenic determinant of Cryptosporidium. More preferably said contiguous sequence is coded by the sequence of SEQ ID No.1, or parts thereof; most preferably said contiguous sequence is comprised in the aminoacid sequence of SEQ ID No.2.

It is another object of the invention a diagnostic kit for the detection of Cryptosporidium in biological and environmental samples comprising, as specif ligand, the polypeptide according to the invention.

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It is another object of the invention the use of a polypeptide according to the invention for raising antibodies able to detect *Cryptosporidium* infection in biological and environmental samples.

It is another object of the invention an antibody obtained using as immunogen a polypeptide according to the invention.

It is another object of the invention a diagnostic kit for the detection of Cryptosporidium in biological and environmental samples comprising, as specif ligand, an antibody able to react with at least one polypeptide according to the invention.

It is another object of the invention an oligonucleotide derived from a Cryptosporidium gene, said gene comprising a sequence at least 50 % homologous to the sequence of SEQ ID No.1. Preferably said oligonucleotide has a sequence comprised in the sequence of SEQ ID No.1, or in the complementary sequence of SEQ ID No.1.

It is another object of the invention a diagnostic kit for the detection of Cryptosporidium in biological and environmental samples comprising, as specif ligand, the oligonucleotide according to the invention.

25 It is another object of the invention a PCR kit for the amplification of Cryptosporidium DNA comprising, as specif primer, at least oligonucleotide according to the invention. Preferably said PCR kit comprises two oligonucleotides having 30 nucleotide sequences according to the invention.

The invention will be illustrated in the following examples, by making reference to the following figures, wherein:

- Figure 1 shows an immunoblot analysis of the mouse serum (M10/01) (A) and of a control mouse serum anti TRAP (B) against: the expression product of the

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control plasmid pDS56/RBSII-E-6his-TRAP purified on nickel column (1); the expression product of the plasmid pDS56/RBSII-E-6his-cpRL3 purified on nickel column (2); a protein lysate of *E. coli* cells transformed with pDS56/RBSII-E-6his-cpRL3 induced with IPTG (3); and non induced (4); molecular weight standard are indicated.

- Figure 2 shows an immunoblot analysis using the mouse serum M10/01 (A) and the MAbl IB2 (B) against a protein lysate of C. parvum oocysts.
- Figure 3A shows an electrophoresis of PCR products amplified from C. parvum DNA (1; 4) and from DNA of the plasmid pDS56/RBSII-E-6his-cpRL3 (2;5) using primers combinations Cry-3/Cry-6 (1;2) or Cry-5/Cry-6 (3;4;5;). As control, PCR reaction without template DNA
- (3;4;5;). As control, PCR reaction without template DNA (3). Figure 3B shows an electrophoresis of PCR products amplified from DNA of several parasite species using primer combination Cry-3/Cry-6: DNA extracted from: C. parvum (1), Sarcocystis sp. (2), Giardia lamblia (3)
- and P. falciparum (4). Figure 3C shows an electrophoresis of PCR products amplified from DNA of progressively diluted C. parvum oocysts using the primer combinations Cry-3/Cry-6: molecular standards (1), 160 oocysts (2), 80 oocysts (3), 40 oocysts (4),
- 20 oocysts (5) 10 oocysts (6). As control, PCR reaction is done without template DNA (7) or in the presence of P. falciparum DNA (8). In panels A, B and C, lanes 6, 5 and 1 respectively, DNA markers are 3611; 1166; 606; 517; 396; 318; 263 bp.
- 30 Example 1 <u>Agtll library with DNA extracted from C.</u>

 parvum infected calf intestinal mucosa

To develop a *C. parvum* genomic expression library, DNA extracted from the intestinal mucosa of an infected calf is used.

35 A newborne calf is infected with 6×10^8 occysts of *C. parvum* MI ISS-1 (Pozio et al. 1992.

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Trans. R. Soc. Trop. Med. Hyg. 86:636-638). After 5 days, the gut is opened, cut into segments of 30 cm each and washed in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). Nitro-cellulose filters (soaked in PBS) of the same size as the gut segments are applied to the mucosal side for a few seconds. Filters are progressively numbered and processed for DNA extraction. A small sample is removed from each filter and analysed by microscopy to determine whether parasites have been removed. The sample from each filter is incubated with 1% glutaraldehyde in cacodylate buffer for 2 h. filters are dehydrated through an increasing ethanol series, embedded in Epon, and cured at 60°C for 24 h. Sections are cut at 0.2-µm thickness and stained with toluidine blue. analysis The reveals that cellulose filters remove only the superficial layer of mucosal cells, together with a large number parasites.

Only DNA extracted from filters that removed a large number of parasites are used. DNA is digested with EcoRI and cloned in Agtll EcoRI digested, 3' end to the coding sequence of β -galactosidase gene. Phage DNA with cloned inserts is packaged in vitro (Boehringer Mannheim in vitro packaging generate the library. The quality of the library is evaluated by analysing the sizes of a subset of inserts polymerase chain reaction (PCR) oligonucleotides corresponding the flanking to sequences of the EcoRI site of the β -galactosidase gene. The library has a complexity of 4.5 X 106 plagues and an estimated average insert size of 1,800 bp.

The expression library is analysed by use of a rabbit serum developed against purified oocysts of *C. parvum MI ISS-1*. The serum is used after removal of the background reactivity by several absorptions on filters soaked with bacterial and phage lysates. Specific

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antibodies bound to filters are detected by use of a second anti-rabbit antibody conjugated to alkaline phosphatase. An insert, named cpRL3, consisting of a 2,359-bp open reading frame encoding a polypeptide of 786 amino acids, is isolated. The lack of both a start codon and a stop codon indicates that the sequence represents part of the coding sequence of the isolated parasitic gene.

Example 2 Expression of the cpRL3 sequence in E. coli

10 The DNA insert cpRL3 is cloned in the EcoRI site of plasmid pDS56/RBSII-E- 6xHis (a pDS56/RBSII derived plasmid containing an EcoRI site in the polylinker). The expression unit of this vector is under the control of an isopropyl- β -15 thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG)-inducible promoter yields a fusion between a stretch of 6 histidines and the amino terminus of the inserted sequences (Stuber et 1990, Eur. J. Immunol 20:819-824), cpRL3 in E. colí M15 expressed carrying the 20 repressor-producing plasmid pUHA1. Induction performed in LB medium for 4 h at 37°C; 1 mM IPTG is added when the cell density reaches an optical density at 600 nm of 0 6.

Example 3 Purification of recombinant polypeptide 6x 25 His-cpRL3

The expression product of the cpRL3 sequence (recombinant polypeptide 6xHis-cpRL3) is purified in a single-step procedure, by nickel chelate affinity chromatography (Stuber et al., ibid.). In brief, one litre of an induced culture of M15(pUHA1) cells carrying plasmid pDS56/RBSII-E-6xHis-cpRL3 is harvested and stirred for 3 h in 100 ml of 6 M guanidine hydrochloride, 100 mM Na₂HPO₄, pH 8. The suspension is centrifuged at 10,000 x g, and the supernatant is directly applied to a nickel column (NTA-resin, Diagen). After an equilibration step with 8 M urea, 100

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mM NaH₂PO₄, 10 mM Tris, pH 8, 6xHis-cpRL3 is eluted by lowering the pH of the urea solution stepwise to pH 4. From one litre of culture, 1 mg of 6xHis-cpRL3 is obtained.

5 Example 4 Immunoblotting

Parasite lysates are obtained Cryptosporidium oocysts purified by Percoll gradient centrifugation (Waldman, E., et al. 1986. J. Clin. 23:199-200). Parasites Microbiol. are lysed incubation of pellet of 2 x 107 oocysts with 0.2 ml of sample buffer (33 mM Tris-HCl, pH 6.8, 190 mM glycerol, 0.1% SDS). Bacterial lysates are obtained by treatment of 109 induced or non induced E. coli cells with 1 ml of sample buffer. Proteins in total cell lysates are separated by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) (Laemmli, U.K. 1970. Nature (London) 227:680-685) nitro-cellulose electroblotted onto filters (blotting buffer, 25 mM Tris, 192 mM glycine, methanol). Non-specific adsorption of antibodies to the nitro-cellulose is prevented by saturation of filters with 1% bovine serum albumin in 2x TBST (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, 300 mM NaCl, 0.1% Tween 20) for 2 h at room temperature. Nitrocellulose filters are incubated with antibodies for 2 h at room temperature. After extensive washing with 2x TBST, antibodies bound to the are detected by use of goat immunoglobulin (heavy and light chains) conjugated to alkaline phosphates (Promega). Phosphatase activity is disclosed by incubation of the filters with 0.3 mg of Tetrazolium and 0.15 mg Nitro Blue of 4-chloro-3-indolyl phosphate per ml in 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 9.5)-100 mM NaCl-5 mM MgCl2.

Example 5 Monoclonal antibody production

After purification by nickel chelate chromatography, recombinant polypeptide 6xHis-cpRL3 is used as immunogen to develop specific antisera and

monoclonal antibodies. BALB/c mice are immunised three times with 50 μ g of purified 6xHis-cpRL3 polypeptide in complete (for the first immunisation) or incomplete Freund's adjuvant. Five days after the last immunisation, mouse spleen cells are fused with x63 Ag 8653 myeloma cells and subsequently screened for antibody production (Kohler, G. and C. Milstein 1975 Nature (London) 256:495-497).

The supernatants of cultures from 10 hybrids are tested in an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assav (ELISA) against 6xHisCpRL3. Immunised develop an antibody titer of 1/500,000. Figure 1 (A and shows the ability of one of the antisera to recognise specifically by immunoblot the recombinant 15 polypeptide encoded by cpRL3. The antiserum recognises the recombinant polypeptide in a total lysate of bacteria in which the expression of the cpRL3 insert is induced with IPTG (Fig. 1A, lane 3). The antiserum also recognize the polypeptide after purification by the nickel chelate chromatography. The specificity of the 20 reaction is demonstrated by the lack of reactivity coli proteins, as well as against against E. unrelated recombinant protein, TRAP, expressed from the control plasmid pDS56/RBSII-6xHis(TRAP), also sharing the six histidine amino-terminal tail. Antibodies 25 developed against the expression product of insert cpRL3 (mouse antiserum and monoclonal antibody 2B11) detect, in the lysate of Cryptosporidium oocysts, a protein of the apparent molecular weight of 190,000 Dalton, (Figure 2 A and B). These results indicates 30 that the expression product of the insert cpRL3 is part of a Clyptosporidium protein expressed in the parasite oocysts.

Example 6 Immunofluorescence microscopy

Purified parasite oocysts are air dried on a coverslip and fixed in cold acetone for 5 min. Non-

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specific binding is prevented by pre-incubation of the samples in PBS containing 1% bovine albumin. Primary antibodies (culture supernatant) are allowed to react for 40 min at room temperature, and the secondary fluorescinated antibody (Becton Dickinson goat anti-mouse) is allowed to react for 20 min. Observation of the samples is carried out with confocal microscopic apparatus (Bio-Rad Laboratories).

The protein is localised by immunofluorescence using the monoclonal antibody 2B11 on a preparation of oocysts fixed with acetone. The monoclonal 2B11 specifically binds to a protein of oocyst wall of Cryptosporidium. The result of the immunolocalization is confirmed by confocal immunofluorescence analysis which shows that the reactivity is detected on the surface of the oocyst wall. On the basis of these observations, the Cryptosporidium protein encoded by the insert cpRL3 is named as Cryptosporidium oocyst wall protein, COWP.

By immunofluorescence, monoclonal antibodies can identify as few as 100 oocysts/ml of stools. The detection limit of this method is determined resuspending known numbers of oocysts in samples of non infected stools.

25 Example 7 ELISA assays

Monoclonal antibodies produced against the product of the insert cpRL3 are able to recognise COWP in solution when used in ELISA assays based on antigen capture with two antibodies. Therefore specific antibodies directed against this protein or fragments thereof having an antigenic activity, as the product of cpRL3, can be employed to develop diagnostic assay to reveal Cryptosporidium infection.

Example 8 PCR

For all PCR experiments, the cpRL3 sequence is amplified in a standard 50 μl PCR reaction mixture

(Saiki, R K., et al. 1988. Science 239:487-491; Scharf, S. J. et al. 1986. Science 233:1076-1078) for 35 cycles at 94,5°C (1 min), 58°C (30 sec); 72°C(1 min), with a Lab Line thermal cycler. The final concentration of

MgCl₂ is 2 mM. Primers used are:
Cry3 (5'GTCCTACTGGATTCACTCTAC-3')
coding strand, nt.722-742 of SEQ ID No. 1;
Cry5 (5'-CCAGGACATCATCATGGTCATTCTCATGGGC-3')
coding strand, nt. 1099-1129 of SEQ ID No. 1;

10 Cry6 (5'-CCGAATATGTAACACATTTATCCGC-3')
non coding strand, nt. 1828-1852 of complementary
strand of SEQ ID No. 1.

For amplification of the cpRL3 sequence from Cryptosporidium oocysts, samples are incubated for 5 min under reducing conditions and boiled for 10 min thereafter. TaqI polymerase is purchased from Perkin-Elmer Co.

The ability of two oligonucleotide combinations to amplify by PCR the sequence of cpRL3 is shown in 20 3A. Both of oligonucleotide combinations Figure Cry3/Cry6 and Cry5/Cry6 are able to amplify segments of the expected molecular weight from the plasmid pDS56/RBSII-E-6xHis (cpRL3) and from DNA of Cryptosporidium. The amplification reaction 25 oligonucleotides Cry3/Cry6 is highly specific, (figure 3B). Oligonucleotides in fact do not amplify any DNA segment when DNA of other protozoa (Giardia lamblia, Plasmodium falciparum o Sarcocystis suis hominis) used template. In PCR experiments 30 oligonucleotide combination Cry3/Cry6 is able amplify a specific DNA segment from as few as oocysts of Cryptosporidium, (Figure 3C). These data indicate that by using combination of oligonucleotides corresponding different regions of cpRL3 sequence, PCR 35 detect be employed to the of presence Cryptosporidium.

SEQUENCE LISTING

- (1) GENERAL INFORMATION:
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 - (C) CITY: Rome
 - (E) COUNTRY: Italy
 - (F) POSTAL CODE (ZIP): 00161
 - (ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: Nucleotide sequences coding for Cryptosporidium proteins, polypeptides coded by said sequences and kits
 - (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 2
 - (iv) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
 - (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk

 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
 - (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.25 (EPO)
- (2) INFORMATION FOR SEO ID NO: 1:
 - (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 2359 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 - (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)
 - (iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO
 - (iii) ANTI-SENSE: NO
 - (vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:
 - (A) ORGANISM: Cryptosporidium parvum
 - (ix) FEATURE:
 - (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
 - (B) LOCATION: 1..2359

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(vi)	SECTIENCE	DESCRIPTION:	シピク	ענג	TAO.	.

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Glu 1	Phe	Glu	Cys	Pro 5	Pro	GTÀ	THE	TIE	10	цуо	1.05			15		48
Ser	Ile	Glu	Arg 20	GTT Val	Asp	Thr	TTE	25	PLO	110	011		30			96
GGC Gly	GAA Glu	GAT Asp 35	Cys	GTC Val	CAA Gln	TTT Phe	TCT Ser 40	GCA Ala	CCA Pro	GAG Glu	AAA Lys	ATT Ile 45	TGC Cys	CCC Pro	CAA Gln	144
GGA Gly	TTT Phe 50	TCT	CTT Leu	TCC Ser	GGA Gly	AAA Lys 55	CAA Gln	TGT Cys	GTT Val	AAA Lys	ACA Thr 60	GAA Glu	TCT	GCT Ala	CCA Pro	192
AGA Arg 65	Leu	ACA Thr	GAA Glu	TGC Cys	CCA Pro 70	CCA Pro	GGT Gly	ACA Thr	ACC Thr	TTG Leu 75		AAT Asn	AAC Asn	AGT Ser	TGT Cys 80	240
ATT Ile	TCA Ser	TAT Tyr	GAA Glu	CTA Leu 85	GLU	GAT Asp	GCC Ala	ATT	TGT Cys 90	110	CCT Pro	GGA Gly	TAT	CTC Leu 95	GAC Asp	288
AAT Asn	GGA Gly	TCI Sei	A GAC Asp 100	Cys	GTT Val	CAG Gln	TTT Phe	TCT Ser 105	GIL	CCF Pro	GAA Glu	A AAG 1 Lys	GAG Glu 110	TGI Cys	CCA Pro	336
ACA Thr	GGT Gly	TT' 7 Ph	e Val	A TTA L Lev	ATT	GGA Gly	AAA Lys	2 (27)	TGI Cys	ACC Thi	CAA Gli	A ACT n Thr 125	ACT Thi	CAZ Gli	A GCT n Ala	. 384
CCI Pro	A CCI o Pro 130	o Gl	A CC	A GAC	G TGT 1 Cys	CCT Pro) PI	A GGT	r ACA y Thi	A AAG	C CTO		A AA' L Asi	r GG	A CAA y Gln	432
TG Cy 14	s Gl	A AA n Ly	A GT 's Va	T GAZ 1 Gli	A AGO u Aro 15	ā 110	A AA' e As:	T ATO	G GT	A TG 1 Cy 15	T CC s Pr 5	A AC' o Th	r GG r Gl	T TT y Ph	T ATT e Ile 160	480
		T GO n Gl	T AC	A AA Ir As 16	n Cy	T GC s Al	T TC a Se	T TT r Ph	C TC e Se 17		A CC a Pr	A AA O As	C AG n Ar	A GA g Gl 17	A TGC u Cys 15	528
CC Pr	A CC	T GC	ly Ty	AT AC yr Th 30	A CT	T TC u Se	T GG	A TC y Se	. 01	A TO n Cy	GC GA 75 Gl	AG CA Lu Gl	A AT n II	A AA Le Ly 30	AA GAA ys Glu	576

GCA CCT CCT GT Ala Pro Pro Va 195	r Ser Gru	200	220 0-1	2	:05		624
CAA TGT ACT GC Gln Cys Thr Al 210	g ren rås	215	1101	220			672
TTA CCA AAT GC Leu Pro Asn G 225	y Asp Asp 230	Cys 120		235		240	720
TGT CCT ACT G	y Pne Inc 245	Ted Gri	250	_		255	768
ACC TCA CCA A Thr Ser Pro L 2	AA ACA CCA ys Thr Pro	GAA TGT Glu Cys	CCT CCA Pro Pro 265	GGT TCT	GCG TTG Ala Leu 270	GAT GGA Asp Gly	816
GAC TCG TGC A Asp Ser Cys T 275	CA AGA CTI hr Arg Lei	GTT CCC Val Pro 280	<u> </u>	CTT CAA Leu Gln	TAC GTT Tyr Val 285	TGT CCT Cys Pro	864
GTT GGT ACT F Val Gly Thr F 290	GA GAG GGG rg Glu Gl	GAC GTI y Asp Val 295	TGC GTI Cys Va	A GAG AGA L Glu Arg 300	TCG ATT Ser Ile	AGT TCG Ser Ser	912
CCT GTT TTG (Pro Val Leu (31 Cys Pr	0	, -,-	315		320	
TGT GTT AGA I	arg Ser Gi 325	H TAT WO	33	0		335	
GAG TGT AAA . Glu Cys Lys	Thr Pro As 340	p var my	345	, ,	350)	
AAA GAA ACA Lys Glu Thr 355	Ser Thr Vo	36	50	-	365		
CAT CAT CAT His His His	Gly His S	375	LyL	380	כ		
ATT CAA ACC Ile Gln Thr 385	Gin Asn i	TA CAT AG le His T 90	CA CAA C hr Gln H	AT CAT AAA is His Ly: 395	A GAG GC s Glu Al	T CCA AG a Pro Ar 40	G 1200 G O

CCA ATT														1248
GCT GAT Ala Asp		al Pro												1296
GTA GGA Val Gly														1344
TGT CAA Cys Gln 450	Asp Gl													1392
CCA CCT Pro Pro 465														1440
TGT CAA Cys Gln														1488
TAT GCA Tyr Ala		al Gly												1536
CCG AAT Pro Asn														1584
TGT CCC Cys Pro 530	Pro Gl	A TAT Ly Tyr	CAC His	CAA Gln 535	ATA Ile	GAT Asp	GAA Glu	GTT Val	ATG Met 540	AAT Asn	ATT Ile	TCT Ser	GCT Ala	1632
CAT CCA His Pro 545	His Hi	AC AGA Ls Arg	His	Leu	Ala	Gly	Val	Gln	Ser	Thr	Ser	Gln	Lys	1680
GGA TAT	TCT CA	AT GGA Ls Gly 565	CAT His	AAA Lys	TAT Tyr	ACT Thr	CCT Pro 570	GTA Val	ATT Ile	TCT Ser	CAG Gln	CCA Pro 575	CCA Pro	1728
CAA CCA Gln Pro		co Val												1776
GCA AAC Ala Asn	CAT GO His Al 595	CT CCA la Pro	TAT Tyr	AAT Asn	CTT Leu 600	ATC Ile	TGT Cys	CCT Pro	GTT Val	GGA Gly 605	TCA Ser	AGA Arg	CTT Leu	1824

						ACA Thr 615										1872
AAT Asn 625	TGC Cys	GAG Glu	CGT Arg	ATA Ile	TAT Tyr 630	AAT Asn	GAG Glu	CCT Pro	GCT Ala	GAA Glu 635	TTA Leu	GTA Val	TGC Cys	CCT Pro	CCA Pro 640	1920
						CCA Pro										1968
						GTT Val										2016
						AGA Arg										2064
						TTA Leu 695										2112
						GGA Gly										2160
						GAG Glu										2208
						CCA Pro										2256
						TGT Cys										2304
						TCA Ser 775										2352
GGA Gly 785	ATT Ile	С														2359

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 2:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 786 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 2:
- Glu Phe Glu Cys Pro Pro Gly Thr Ile Leu Lys Asp Asp Gln Cys Gln 1 5 10 15
- Ser Ile Glu Arg Val Asp Thr Ile Cys Pro Pro Gly Phe Val Asp Asn 20 25 30
- Gly Glu Asp Cys Val Gln Phe Ser Ala Pro Glu Lys Ile Cys Pro Gln 35 40 45
- Gly Phe Ser Leu Ser Gly Lys Gln Cys Val Lys Thr Glu Ser Ala Pro
 50 55 60
- Arg Leu Thr Glu Cys Pro Pro Gly Thr Thr Leu Glu Asn Asn Ser Cys 65 70 75 80
- Ile Ser Tyr Glu Leu Glu Asp Ala Ile Cys Pro Pro Gly Tyr Leu Asp 85 90 95
- Asn Gly Ser Asp Cys Val Gln Phe Ser Gln Pro Glu Lys Glu Cys Pro
- Thr Gly Phe Val Leu Ile Gly Lys Gln Cys Thr Gln Thr Thr Gln Ala 115 120 125 -
- Pro Pro Gln Pro Glu Cys Pro Pro Gly Thr Asn Leu Val Asn Gly Gln
 130 135 140
- Cys Gln Lys Val Glu Arg Ile Asn Met Val Cys Pro Thr Gly Phe Ile 145 150 155 160
- Asp Asn Gly Thr Asn Cys Ala Ser Phe Ser Ala Pro Asn Arg Glu Cys 165 170 175
- Pro Pro Gly Tyr Thr Leu Ser Gly Ser Gln Cys Glu Gln Ile Lys Glu 180 185 190
- Ala Pro Pro Val Ser Glu Cys Pro Pro Gly Tyr Lys Leu Gln Gly Asn 195 200 205

Gln	Cys 210	Thr	Ala	Leu	Lys	Met 215	Ile	Asp	Ala	Ile	Cys 220	Pro	Asp	Gly	Phe
Leu 225		Aśn	Gly	Asp	Asp 230	Суѕ	Ile	Gln	Phe	Ser 235		Ala	Ser	Thr	Val 240
Cys	Pro	Thr	Gly	Phe 245		Leu	Gln	Asn	Gln 250	Gln	Cys	Val	Gln	Thr 255	Thr
Thr	Ser	Pro	Lys 260	Thr	Pro	Glu	Суз	Pro 265	Pro	Gly	Ser	Ala	Leu 270	Asp	Gly
Asp	Ser	Cys 275	Thr	Arg	Leu	Val	Pro 280	Gly	Ala	Leu	Gln	Tyr 285	Val	Cys	Pro
Val	Gly 290	Thr	Arg	Glu	Gly	Asp 295	Val	Cys	Val	Glu	Arg 300	Ser	Ile	Ser	Ser
Pro 305	Val	Leu	Glu	Cys	Pro 310	Pro	Gly	Tyr	Ser	Leu 315	Glu	Thr	Gly	Lys	Gln 320
Cys	Val	Arg	Arg	Ser 325	Gln	Tyr	Asp	Cys	Ser 330	Val	Thr	Thr	Tyr	Val 335	Thr
Glu	Cys	Lys	Thr 340	Pro	Asp	Val	Lys	Ala 345	Leu	Arg	Arg	Leu	Ala 350	Ala	Ala
Lys	Glu	Thr 355	Ser	Thr	Val	Tyr	Glu 360	Thr	Ser	Glu	Ile	Gln 365	Asn	Pro	Gly
His	His 370	His	Gly	His	Ser	His 375	Gly	His	Ser	His	Ser 380	Gln	Val	Ile	Pro
Ile 385	Gln	Thr	Gln	Asn	Ile 390	His	Thr	Gln	His	His 395	Lys	Glu	Ala	Pro	Arg 400
Pro	Ile	Cys	Glu	Asp 405	Val	Pro	Lys	Ile	Thr 410	Pro	Lys	Thr	Cys	Thr 415	Lys
Ala	Asp	Ser	Val 420	Pro	Ala	Val	Pro	Ile 425	Cys	Glu	Asn	Asn	Ala 430	Glu	Leu
Val	Gly	Lys 435	Glu	Cys	Val	Leu	Thr 440	Asn	Tyr	Tyr	Pro	Leu 445	Glu	Ala	Ile
Cys	Gln 450	Asp	Gīy	Thr	Arg	Ser 455	Lys	Glu	Суз	Ala	Lys 460	Phe	Val	Lys	Thr
Pro 465	Pro	Thr	Leu	Lys	Cys 470	Pro	Pro	Gly	Ser	Val 475	Asp	Val	Gly	Ser	Gln 480

Cys Gln Val Asn Lys Tyr Ser Pro Tyr Asp Leu Ala Cys Pro Ala Gly Tyr Ala Leu Val Gly Asp Lys Cys Ala Thr Thr Arg Glu Lys Val Cys 505 Pro Asn Glu Ser Cys Gln Arg Val Val Thr Ala Pro Val Ser Leu Thr Cys Pro Pro Gly Tyr His Gln Ile Asp Glu Val Met Asn Ile Ser Ala 535 His Pro His His Arg His Leu Ala Gly Val Gln Ser Thr Ser Gln Lys 560 Gly Tyr Ser His Gly His Lys Tyr Thr Pro Val Ile Ser Gln Pro Pro 570 Gln Pro Val Pro Val Val Ala Pro Ile Gln Gln Met Lys Cys Ile His Ala Asn His Ala Pro Tyr Asn Leu Ile Cys Pro Val Gly Ser Arg Leu 595 Val Ala Asp Lys Cys Val Thr Tyr Ser Asp Lys Ile Cys Pro Asn Gly Asn Cys Glu Arg Ile Tyr Asn Glu Pro Ala Glu Leu Val Cys Pro Pro 625 630 640 635 Gly Phe Ser Ser Ser Lys Pro Ile Gln Pro Ile Ser His Ser His Ile 650 Asn His Pro Asn Val Ser Val Pro Val Gln Pro Gln Thr Ile Asn Gln 665 Pro Gln Val Ile Gln Gln Arg Gln Val Asn Tyr Gln Pro Gln Val Ile 675 His Gln Thr Gln Glu Ile Leu Thr Thr Tyr Pro Thr Pro Val Tyr Gln 695 Thr Gly Thr Ile Tyr Gln Gly His His His His His His His His His 710 715 Arg Asn Leu Ala Ser Pro Glu Cys Ile Lys Thr Ile Ser Val Pro Tyr Ile Leu Lys Cys Glu Ser Pro Phe Ile Leu Asp Gly Asp Lys Cys Ile 745

Glu Lys Thr Glu Lys Ile Cys Leu Gln Gly Asp Cys Arg Lys Gln Val 755 760 765

Val Val Pro Pro Thr Leu Ser Cys Pro Gln Gly Tyr Arg Asn Ala Asn 770 775 780

Gly Ile 785

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CLAIMS

- 1. A polypeptide in a substantially purified form comprising a contiguous sequence coded by a Cryptosporidium gene, said gene comprising a nucleotide sequence at least 50 % homologous to the sequence of SEO ID No.1.
- 2. A polypeptide according to Claim 1 wherein said contiguous sequence comprises an antigenic determinant of Cryptosporidium.
- 3. A polypeptide according to any of previous claims wherein said contiguous sequence is coded by the sequence of SEQ ID No.1, or parts thereof.
 - 4. A polypeptide according to Claim 3 wherein said contiguous sequence is comprised in the aminoacid sequence of SEO ID No.2.
 - 5. A diagnostic kit for the detection of Cryptosporidium in biological and environmental samples comprising, as specif ligand, the polypeptide according to the invention.
- 20 6. Use of a polypeptide according to the invention for raising antibodies able to detect *Cryptosporidium* infection in biological and environmental samples.
 - 7. An antibody obtained using as immunogen a polypeptide according to any of Claims from 1 to 4.
- 25 8. A diagnostic kit for the detection of Cryptosporidium in biological and environmental samples comprising, as specif ligand, an antibody able to react with at least one polypeptide according to any of Claims from 1 to 4.
- 9. An oligonucleotide derived from a Cryptosporidium gene, said gene comprising a sequence at least 50 % homologous to the sequence of SEQ ID No.1.
 - 10. An oligonucleotide according to Claim 9 having a sequence comprised in the sequence of SEQ ID No.1, or
- in the complementary strand of SEQ ID No. 1.

- 11. A diagnostic kit for the detection of Cryptosporidium in biological and environmental samples comprising, as specif ligand, the oligonucleotide according to Claim 9 or 10.
- 5 12. A PCR kit for the amplification of Cryptosporidium DNA comprising, as specif primer, at least one oligonucleotide according to Claim 9 or 10.
- 13. A PCR kit according to Claim 12 comprising, as specif primer, two oligonucleotides according to Claim 9 or 10.

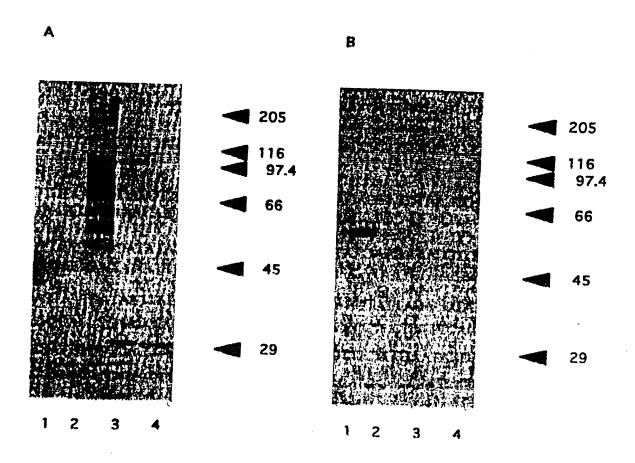


FIG. 1

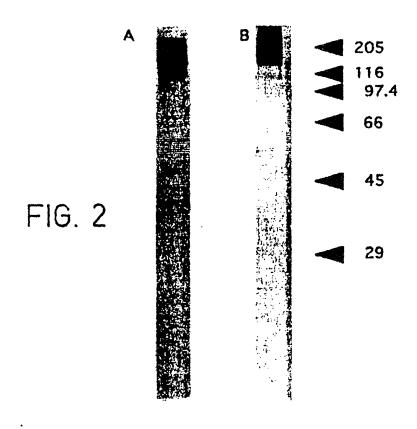
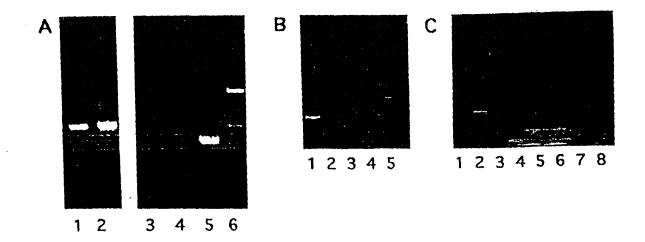


FIG. 3



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Interruptional Application No

			PCT/IT 9:	3/00089
A. CLASS IPC 5	C12N15/30 C07K13/00 G01N33	/68 C12Q1/6	58 C071	(15/28
	to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national clas	ssification and IPC		
	S SEARCHED documentation searched (classification system followed by classific	etion symbols)		
IPC 5	C12N C07K			
Documenta	tion searched other than minimum documentation to the extent tha	it such documents are inc	luded in the fields	rearched
Electronic o	data base consulted during the international search (name of data h	ase and, where practical,	search terms used)	
C DOCUL	MENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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Ρ,χ	INFECTION AND IMMUNITY vol. 61, no. 6 , June 1993 , WAS pages 2347 - 2356	SHINGTON US		1-13
	RANUCCI, L. ET AL. 'Characteriza immunolocalization of a Cryptosp protein containing repeated amin motifs' see the whole document	oridium		
P,X	see figure 2 MOLECULAR AND BIOCHEMICAL PARASI vol. 56, no. 1 , November 1992 pages 69 - 78 LALLY, N. C. ET AL. 'A 2359-base fragment from Cryptosporidium paencoding a repetitive oocyst prosee the whole document see figure 4	e pair DNA		1-13
X Furt	her documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family	members are listed	in annex.
'A' docum consid 'E' earlier filing 'L' docum which citatio 'O' docum other i	ent which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or is cited to establish the publication date of another n or other special reason (as specified) tent referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or	ited to understan invention "X" document of parti- cannot be conside involve an inventi "Y" document of parti- cannot be conside document is comi-	ad not in conflict we do the principle or the cular relevance; the red novel or canno we step when the do cular relevance; the red to involve an injuned with one or manation being obvious the cular relevance.	ith the application but heavy underlying the claimed invention to the considered to bocument is taken alone claimed invention eventive step when the tore other such docupus to a person skilled
Date of the	actual completion of the international search		the international a	•
	January 1994		4 -02- 1994	
Name and	mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fan (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer	J	

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IT 93/00089

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-augury	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
	J. PROTOZOOL. vol. 38, no. 6, November 1991 pages 765 - 78S DYKSTRA, C. C. ET AL. 'Construction of genomic libraries of Cryptosporidium parvum and identification of antigen-encoding genes' see table 2	1-13
	was that fine man case	